CRAMBINAE (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE) IN GREECE WITH NEW RECORDS

By David E. Gaskin*

Introduction

Despite their potential importance as pests of forage and other graminaceous crops, the Crambinae of Europe remained a relatively neglected group until the extensive studies undertaken by S. Bleszynski between 1955 and his unfortunate death in an accident in 1969. The crambine fauna of Greece is probably one of the least studied.

Unfortunately, in his major revision of the Crambinae of the Palaearctic in 1965, Bleszynski summarized distributions, referring to many species as being known from "Balkanhalbinsel" or "Balkanlander". Most of his source material was from relatively few collections; taken or examined by Staudinger (1871), Rebel (1916, 1918, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1939), Rebel and Zerny (1931), Schawerda (1937), Osthelder (1941, 1951), Drenowski (1930), Thurner (1940), Touleschkov (1951) and Amsel (1939, 1958). Closer examination of Bleszynski's major sources of information frequently reveals that the two regional conglomerate terms given above in fact refer to material collected in Albania, Bulgarian Thrace and Bulgarian and Yugoslavian Macedonia. It is a matter of some difficulty therefore, to produce a coherent picture of the crambine fauna of present-day Greece. Further problems with using the source literature are caused by a number of misidentifications, and the use of names which have since been synonymised. It was advisable therefore, to be wary of identifications in the articles listed above unless the material in question could be re-examined or had been dealt with by Bleszynski in the course of his studies in the 1950s and 1960s.

In order to provide an overview of the crambine fauna of Greece, which proves to be unexpectedly rich in terms of number of species despite the barren nature of much of the terrain, the author has segregated those species confirmed as occurring in the peninsula and the islands of the Adriatic, Aegean and Mediterranean, including Crete. To these are added records obtained during recent collecting expeditions in the three years 1983-85, during which I took two species of the genus *Agriphila* and one of *Ancylolomia* not previously reported from Greece, and records given by Bleszynski (1969), Ganev and Hacker (1985). Information on the crambine fauna of adjacent countries, including Cyprus, is included where comparison is appropriate. Further records by Ganev (1982, 1983, 1985 and 1987) are discussed at the end of this paper.

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New records for Greece

1. *Agriphila cyrenaicella* (Ragonot): 7 males, Kardamyla, Chios, 22-24.ix.85.
   Note: A possible record from Kos was given by Turati and Fiori (1930); "*Crambus cyrenaicellus* Rag. o specie affine? L'esemplare di Coo del'ottobre 1929 non è abbastanza in buone condizioni per poter essere fissato con sicurezza." Bleszynski (1957, 1965) did not mention this specimen, but since he cites papers by Turati extensively it may be concluded that either the specimen is lost or was not of this species, and less likely that Bleszenski overlooked the record. Previously the nearest confirmed records to Greece were from Sicily and Syria (Bleszynski 1965).
2. *Agriphila dalmatinella* (Hampson): 2 males, Kardamyla, Chios, 22-24.ix.85.
   Taken in daytime with the previous species in short withered grasses and ericaceous scrub at about 200 m elevation. Bleszynski (1965) confirmed this species for Dalmatia and Herzegovina (Yugoslavia). Thurner (1940), found it in the SW of Kosovo province of that country in mid-September.
3. *Ancylolomia pectinatella* (Zeller): 6 males, Kardamyla, Chios, 17-22.ix.85, in short grasses (*Phleum* sp.). Previously recorded from Limassol, Cyprus, in October by Rebel (1939, 1940), and Jugoslavia (Bleszynski 1965).

Summary of previously verified records and new data 1983-85.

DIPTYCHOPHORINI

4. Glaucocharis euchromiella (Ragonot): "Crete" (Bleszynski 1965); the specimen in BMNH examined by Gaskin is from Vrissos. This species was first described from Crete as *Pareromene rebeli* (Osthelder 1940). The range includes Syria, Armenia (USSR) and Iran (Bleszenski 1965; material in BMNH re-examined by the author).
5. *Euchromius rayatellus* (Amsel): 6, Platamon, Katerini, 9-14.v.68, U. Roesler, at light (Bleszynski 1969); 1 female, 16 km SW of Komotini, 5.viii.84 (Ganev and Hacker, 1985). Also known from Italy. Widespread from Turkey to Syria and Jordan (Bleszynski 1965).
6. *E. bellus* (Hübn.): "Greece" (Staudinger, 1871; Bleszynski 1965); 2 males, 16 km SW of Komotini, 5.viii.85 (Ganev and Hacker, 1985); 13 males, 6 females, Lassi, Kefalonia, 1-14.v.83, at light and 1 male, Kardamyla, Chios, 17.ix.85, at light (author's data). Staudinger's specimens were from Corfu. Thurner (1940) took it at localities in Bulgaria in July; it is widespread in most other countries of central Europe and the Mediterranean belt.

7. *E. ocellus* (Haw.): Rodos (Rebel 1918), "Greece" and Crete (Staudinger 1871; Bleszynski 1965); 1 male, 1 female, Platamon, Katerini, 9-14.v.68, U. Roesler, at light (Bleszynski 1969); 5 males, 3 females, Lassi, Kefalonia, 1-14.v.83, at light (author); 2 males, 3 females, Planos, Zakynthos, 7.vi.84, at light (author); 2 males, Marmaron, Chios, 23-25.vi.85, at light (author). Rebel (1939) recorded this species from several localities in Cyprus, Larnaka in March, and Limassol and Platres in August-September.
8. *E. superbellus* (Zell.): Rebel (1933-34) recorded a specimen in June, from Vathi, on the island of Samos.

   Bleszynski (1965) did not verify this report. Ganev (1987) reported 1 female from Rhodopi, Fanari and 1 female from Rhodes, Eleoussa, in 1985 and 1982 respectively; Hayward (1938) and Amsel (1958) confirmed its presence in Cyprus (as *Ommatopteryx cypriusella*), and in Bulgaria (Amsel 1939).
9. *Pseudoeuchromius latus* (Staud.): Described as new from Karpenision by Staudinger (1871; Bleszynski 1965); this interesting species has yet to be recorded elsewhere.

CRAMBINI

10. *Crambus nemorellus* (Hubn.): "Greece" (Bleszynski 1965). I have no further information on this record.
11. *C. pratellus* (Linn.): Bleszynski (1965) believed that this species occurred in Greece, but could not confirm it. Rebel (1918) and Rebel and Zerny (1934) recorded it in central Albania (as *Crambus dumetellus* Hübn.) in June, Amsel (1939) in Bulgarian Macedonia in late May, and Daniel et al. (1951) in Yugoslavian Macedonia in June.
12. *Angustalius malacellus* (Dup.): Noted in Attica by Staudinger (1871; Bleszynski 1965). Also recorded from Limassol, Cyprus in August-September by Rebel (1939).
13. *Agriphila tristella* (D. & Schiff.): "Greece" (Staudinger 1871; Bleszynski 1965); also recorded from Albania in August-September by Rebel and Zerny (1934) in Yugoslavian Macedonia by Thurner (1940).
14. *A. latistria* (Haw.): "Greece", and Crete (Bleszynski 1965).
15. *A. brionella* (Zerny): Some material from Crete may be referable to this species (Bleszynski 1965). It has yet to be confirmed from the mainland, although Bleszynski (1965) verified other Balkan records; from Albania in August-September (Rebel 1918), and Croatia (Rebel and Zerny 1934), also Yugoslavian and Bulgarian Macedonia in August-September (Thurner 1940).
16. *A. tolli* (Blesz.): So far taken from Crete (Bleszynski 1965) and Evro, Kivisos, 22-3.viii.85 (Ganev 1987); also known from Italy

(author's record), Austria, Romania, Hungary and Dubrovnik on the Dalmatian coast.

17. *A. reisseri* (Blesz.): Described as new, from Crete (Bleszynski 1965).
18. *A. inquinatella* (D. & Schiff.): Not specifically reported from Greece by Bleszynski (1965), who did not confirm the record from Corfu given by Staudinger (1871), but taken by the author as follows; 11 males, Mt. Falakro, Macedonia, 20.ix.1985, in long rough grasses at 2,200 ft. Previously Thurner (1940) had taken it in Bulgarian and Yugoslavian Macedonia in July, Rebel and Zerny (1934) in Albania in August-September. Rebel (1939) gave records from Limassol, Cyprus, for July and September.
19. *A. selasella* (Hübn.): 1 male, Florini, 1,000 m, 30 km SW of Florina, 8.viii.85 (Ganev, 1987).
20. *A. paleatella* (Zell.): Kimassos, Peloponnesos, 27.viii.1983 (Ganev, 1985). This record is included in the main list, but the author gave no illustration or genitalia figure. There are several closely related species.
21. *Chrysocrambus linetellus* (Fabr.): 21 males, Kardamyla, Chios, 28.v.1984, in new growth of tall grasses (?*Apera* sp.) on arable terraces. This species was recorded from Greece first by Staudinger (1871) on Parnassos, then by Rebel (1936) at Embona, Rodos, and by Rebel (1939) in three localities in Crete, Kalithes (May), Neapolis (May) and Tilisso (May and June) and by Bretherton (1969) on the plateau above Anogia, Mt. Ida. In the earlier literature this species is to be found under the name *Crambus cassentiniellus* Zeller (*cassentiellus* sic in Bretherton). Roesler captured specimens on the mainland of Greece at Platamon, Katerini (3 males, 9-14.vi.1968) and at Gorgopotamos, 15 km S. of Albania (10 males 28-29.v.1968) (Bleszynski 1969). Under the old name, the species has also been recorded in Albania in May and June (Rebel 1918) and the Kosovo province of southern Yugoslavia in June (Daniel et al. 1951), and in Bulgarian Macedonia by Thurner (1940) in the same month.
22. *C. craterellus* (Scop.): 1 male, Falakron, 5 km SW of Volos, 17.vii.84 (Ganev and Hacker, 1987). This species is widespread in the Palaearctic.
23. *Pediasia contaminella* (Hubn.): Recorded from "Greece" by Staudinger (1871), and taken at Platamon, Katerini by U. Roesler during 9-14.vi.1968 (Bleszynski 1969). It has also been taken in Albania in June and September (Rebel 1918; Rebel and Zerny 1934), and recorded from Montenegro by Rebel (1913) and Drenowski (1930). Daniel et al. (1951) and Thurner (1940) also gave several records for Macedonia (Yugoslavia and Bulgaria).

24. *P. jucundella* (Herr.-Schf.): "Greece" (Bleszynski 1965). He made an uncited reference to a literature source, but so far I have not been able to trace this.
25. *P. fascelinella* (Hübn.): "Greece" (Bleszynski 1965), based on the specimens from Sarepta, identified by Staudinger (1871).
26. *P. luteela* (D. & Schiff.) 3 males, Falakron, 5 km SW of Volos, 17.vii.84 (Ganov and Hacker, 1987); this species is widespread in Europe and western Asia.
27. *Catoptria acutangulella* (Herr.-Schf.): Recorded from the Olimbos Massif in eastern mainland of Greece by Touleschkov (1951), but while Bleszynski (1965) cited this article, he did not confirm the record. It is not clear if Ganev (1982) referred only some, or all of Touleschkov's material to *C. olympica* Ganev. The species, however, is widely distributed in adjacent regions; Albania in July-August (Rebel and Zerny 1934). Yugoslavian Macedonia (Thurner 1940; Daniel et al. 1951) and Montenegro (Rebel and Zerny 1934).
28. *C. mytilella* (Hübn.): "Greece" (Bleszynski 1965). Also recorded from Albania, and Yugoslavian Macedonia by the authors given in the previous section.
29. *C. olympica* Ganev: 53, Olimbos-Kataphygion, 1,750-2,100 m, 1937 & 1962 (Ganev, 1982).
30. *C. dimorphella* (Staud.): Recorded from Crete and Cyprus (Bleszynski 1965).
31. *C. falsella* (D. and Schiff.): Recorded from the Olimbos Massif in July by Touleschkov (1951), confirmed by Bleszynski (1965). It flies in July in Yugoslavian Macedonia (Drenowski 1930; Thurner 1940) and was also recorded in Albania by Rebel and Zerny (1934).
32. *C. pinella* (Linn.): "Greece" (Bleszynski 1965), no locality given, but the "*pinetellus* (sic) (L.)" of Staudinger (1871) from Parnassos in July is probably the source specimen. Recorded from Yugoslavian Macedonia by Drenowski (1930), Rebel and Zerny (1934) and Thurner (1940).
33. *C. gozmanyi* Blesz.: 4 males, 4 females, Falakron, 6 km SW of Volas, 16.vii.84 (Ganev and Hacker, 1987). Previously recorded from Rumania and Bulgaria (Bleszynski, 1965).
34. *Metacrambus caractellus* (Zell.): "Greece" (Bleszynski 1965), without locality; 3 males, 1 female, Rodos, Eleoussa, August 1982 (Ganev 1987). Recorded also from Albania by Rebel and Zerny (1934), and from Platres and Limassol in Cyprus during August by Hayward (1938) and Rebel (1940).
35. *Xanthocrambus saxonellus* (Zinck.): First noted for Greece on Parnassos by Staudinger (1871), and later from Karpenisi in June and July by Amsel (1939); Also recorded from Albania (in July), Bulgarian Macedonia by Amsel (1939), and Yugoslavian Macedonia by Thurner (1940).

36. *Mesocrambus candiellus* (Herr.-Schf.): Athens, Greece (Bleszynski 1957); 2 males, 1 female, 35 km N of Alexandroupolis, 20-21.viii.85 (Ganev, 1987). Canea, Crete by Rebel (1916), Osthelder (1941) and Bleszynski (1965).
37. *Platytes cerusella* (D. & Schiff.): On Parnassos by Staudinger (1871), Bleszynski (1965); 1 male, Falakron, 1700 m, 6 km SE of Volos, 16.vii.84 (Ganev and Hacker, 1985); also from Yugoslavian Macedonia (Thurner 1940) in July, Albania (May), and Bulgarian Macedonia (Rebel and Zerny 1934).

CHILONINI

38. *Chilo luteelus* (Motsch.): 2 males, 16 km SW Komotini, 5.viii.84 (Ganev and Hacker 1987). A common species throughout the Palaearctic (Bleszynski 1965).

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39. *Calamotropha hierichuntica* (Zell.): 1 male, 35 km N of Alexandroupolis, 20-21.viii.85 (Ganev 1987).

ANCYLOLOMINI

40. *Ancylolomia palpella* (D. & Schiff.): 1 male, lower slopes of Mt. Falakron, Macedonia, 900 m, 29.ix.1985, swept from short pasture grass (author's record). Bleszynski (1965) did not record this species from Greece, but during the literature research the author found an unconfirmed report by Graves (1926) for Armutei, Kilkis near Thessaloniki. It is known from Albania (Rebel and Zerny 1934), Bulgarian and Yugoslavian Macedonia (Rebel and Zerny 1934; Thurner 1940).
41. *A. tentaculella* (Hübn.): 5 males, Kardamyla, Chios, 20-22.ix.1985, in low scrubby heath with short dry grasses (author's record). First recorded from Attica by Staudinger (1871), confirmed by Bleszynski (1965). Also recorded from 19 km SE of Florina (Rebel and Zerny 1934). The species has also been taken in southern Yugoslavia (Daniel et al. 1951), Albania (Rebel and Zerny 1934) and Limassol, Cyprus (Rebel 1939).
42. *A. disparella* (Hübn). "Greece" (Staudinger 1871), under the old name of *A. contritella* (Zell.); Kimissos, Peloponnesoss, 27.viii.83 (as "first record for Greece") (Ganev, 1985); Also taken in Limassol, Cyprus by Rebel (1939), otherwise distributed around the western margin of the Mediterranean from Spain and Morocco to Sicily, and north to Hungary (Bleszynski 1965).

Discussion

It is unlikely that the list assembled in this paper fully represents the crambine fauna of Greece; so many other species have been taken in adjacent areas of Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria in the past that they are almost certain to occur in Greece as well. The necessary extensive collecting effort has never been mounted.

Nevertheless, as those who have collected Lepidoptera in that country can attest, Crambinae are not nearly as common, as a proportion of the moths taken by day or at light, as one is accustomed to expect in central or northern Europe. The overlap between temperate and Mediter ranean zones lies relatively far north in Greece and this is paralleled in the crambine fauna. The "European" species such as *A. inquinatella* are more typically found in cultivated grasslands of the northeastern plains, and the northern border ranges. The thorny scrub lands which characterize much of the central and southern parts of Greece support essentially Mediterranean semi-arid zone genera such as *Ancylolomia* and *Euchromius*. In these regions and in equivalent parts of Turkey, except in the high mountains, I have observed a tendency for Crambinae to emerge in two waves, first in May, as soon as the temperatures are warm enough for activity, taking advantage of grasses still left fresh from spring rains. There is then a second emergence of adults in the autumn, so that eggs can be laid on the new growth of grasses coincident with the September-October rains.This pattern is in sharp contrast to the July-September peak of adult emergence so typical of northern and central Europe, and also of the northern mountain ranges of Greece.

In addition to the records summarized in this paper, Ganev (1982, 1983, 1985, 1987) has described a number of new taxa from material collected in Greece. After studying these diagnoses, I have considerable reservations about the validity of their status, for the reasons outlined below.

Calamotropha hackeri Ganev, 1985: Differs from *C. hierchuntica* Zell. in the shading of the forewings, which could be the result merely of selection to a local habitat, and in the dimensions of the eighth tergite and the corpus bursae and ductus bursae of the female genitalia. The apparent shape of the tergite can vary with the degree of individual sclerotization, the corpus bursae in many groups of Lepidoptera is notoriously variable, and in fact the ductus and corpus bursae can be drastically different in shape depending on whether the female is virgin or has been fertilized. I am not convinced that the unique holotype is other than a variety of the Zeller species.

Catoptria olympica Ganev 1982 (1983): Once again, the forewing colour could simply be an adaptation of a local population to a particular habitat. The material described is very similar to *C. luctiferella* H.-S.; this species being notoriously variable in habitus (see Bleszynski, 1965, plate 15, Figs. 180, 180a, for example). I can see no

significant differences in the female genitalia of the two species, based on Ganev's drawing, while in the male there is some minor difference in the basal costal and saccular sclerotization of the valva, both regions subject to considerable variation in many species of Palaearctic Crambini.

Catoptria fibigeri Ganev 1987: The female genitalia as figured appear to be well within the range of variation encountered in *C. acutangulella* (H.S.) The single male from Ionnina is identical in general form to the male of that species also, except in the basal costal/ saccular sclerotization of the valva. Given the variability of that zone in *acutangulella* across its range, it seems most unwise to describe a new species largely on the basis of a variation in costal zone sclerotization which may prove to be only individual in nature.

While they were not originally described from Greece, I have similar reservations about the description of new subspecies in *Catoptria biformella* Rbl., and *C. gozmanyi* Blesz. without a thorough investigation of variation across the range of each species. Ganev (1982 [1983]) also described a new species in the genus *Pediasia* from Bulgaria, *P. kasyi.* After looking at his drawings, I conclude it would fit quite readily within the expected range of individual variation for *P. radicivitta* (Fil.) or perhaps *P. walkeri* Blesz., both of which may in fact be local clinal variants of the same trans-Palaearctic species in any case.

Despite the work of Bleszynski (1965), all the genera of Palaearctic merit thorough revision, preferably after much more collecting effort in eastern Europe and west and central Asia. While there may in fact be merit in some of the new taxa recently published, it is unwise to add any new names to the literature without first comparing the material with the considerable holdings in the major museums of Europe to get a good idea of the types of variation encountered throughout the known range of each species, and the grounds on which a subspecies might be proposed and its distinction defended.

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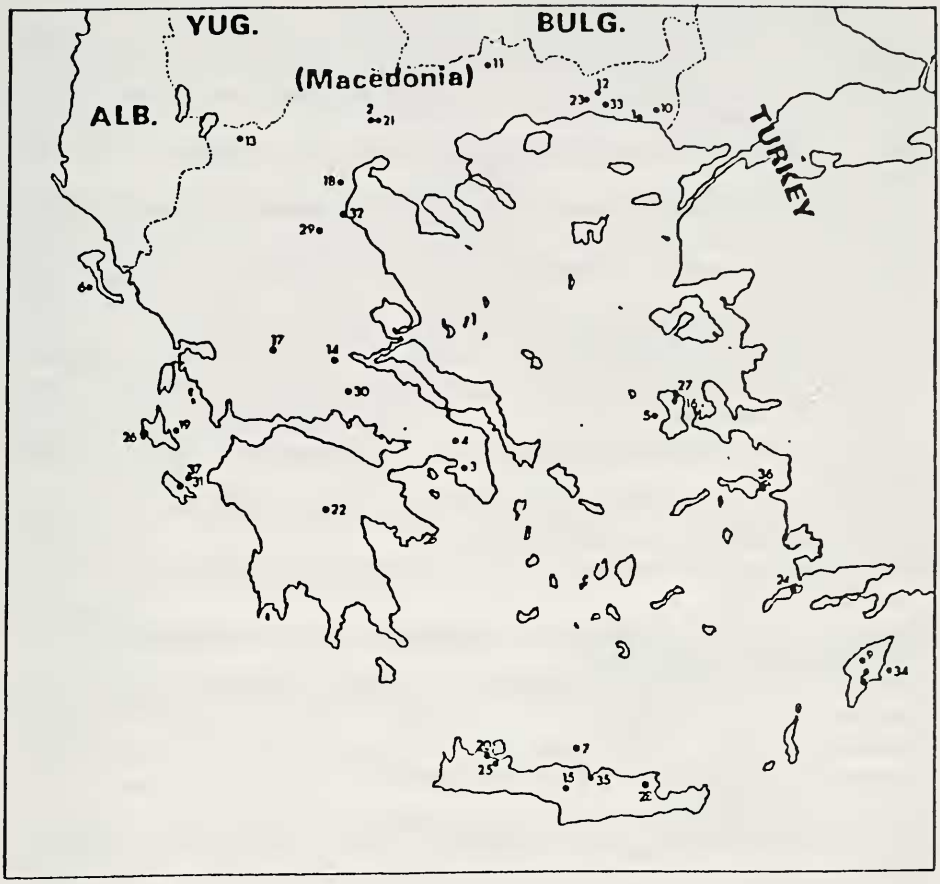

Fig. 1. ALB. — Albania; YUG. — Yugoslavia; BULG. — Bulgaria; Localities in text: 1. Alexandroupolis, 2. Armutei, 3. Athens, 4. Attica, 5. Chios, 6. Corfu, 7. Crete, 8. Eleoussa, 9. Embona, 10. Evro, 11. Falakron (Mt.), 12. Fanari, 13. Florina, 14. Gorgopotamos, 15. Idhi (Mt.) 16. Kardamyla, 17. Karpenision (Mt.), 18. Katerini, 19. Kefalonia, 20. Khania, 21. Kilkis, 22. Kimissos, 23. Komotini, 24. Kos, 25. Kalithes, 26. Lassi, 27. Marmaron, 28. Neopolis, 29. Olimbos, 30. Parnassos, 31. Planos, 32. Platamon, 33. Rodhopi, 34. Rodos, 35. Tilissos, 36. Vathi, 37. Zakynthos.

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SITOTROGA CEREALELLA OL. (LEP.: GELECHIIDAE) IN WORCESTER — Mr Johnathan Cooter recorded this insect as a pest of "corn dollies" in the Hereford Museum in 1984. Subsequent to this, I was informed that a similar infestation had occurred in the Worcester Museum collection of locally made corn dollies. The insects proved to be *cerealella,* but it is not clear whether the wheat from whose seed-heads the moths emerged in 1987 was of local or imported origin. A.N.B. SIMPSON, The Sycamores, The Old Rectory, Leigh, Worcs.

CYDIA ILLUTANA H.-S. (LEP.: TORTRICIDAE) IN HAMPSHIRE — On June 10th 1975 I took a small tortricoid moth at m.v. light in my garden at Southsea. It was identified by me as *C. conicolana* Hey. and remained misidentified thus until I made a genitalia preparation a couple of years ago. I am indebted to E.C. Pelham-Clinton for identifying it as *C. illutana.*

I believe this is the earliest yet known example of this species in Britain. Dr J.R. LANGMAID, 1 Dorrita Close, Southsea, Hants PO4 0NY.